

Proceeding: In the Matter of 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review -- Amendment of Part of the ☒ Record 1 of 1

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Dear FCC,

I feel I have to comment on "FCC NPRM, WT Docket 98-143".

I have never written to the FCC before regarding a "proposed rules change" so I hope I'm following the proper protocol.

I started as an Amateur Radio Operator with my Novice Class License, upgraded to Technician (with HF) and then my license was changed to Technician-Plus (with HF) because of the NC-CODE license.

When I read the ARRL proposal for a "Simplified Amateur License Structure" it was music to my ears. Over the years I have struggled with getting the 13 wpm Morse Code to no avail. Finally I will be granted more HF privileges without having to pass the 13 wpm Morse Code requirement.

The ARRL proposal of granting the Novice and Tech-Plus the same HF privileges as the General Class if they pass the General written exam requirements was the best idea I had heard in a long time. Since I already have my 5 wpm all I would need to do was take the General written test.

If I understand the FCC Docket 98-143, you (the FCC) have modified the ARRL proposal in the area of the "Entry Level HF Morse Code Requirements" for HF privileges.

In my opinion, the "ARRL Proposal for a Simplified Amateur License Structure" is the way to go. It follows the current "Entry Level HF Morse Code Requirements" of 5 wpm and at the same time, meets the objective of reducing the number of license classes from 6 to 4. In addition, the amateur community agrees 2 to 1 in favor with the "ARRL Proposal for a Simplified Amateur License Structure.

Your (FCC) proposed "Entry Level HF Morse Code Requirements" of 10-13 wpm will lock out a great number of people from experiencing the pleasure of HF Amateur Radio operation.

I fear that if the "Entry Level HF Morse Code Requirements" are set to more than 5 wpm it will not be long before there are no more Amateur Radio Operators in the HF bands. This would be a tragedy and a great loss, not only to the Amateur Radio community, but to the world.

Please reconsider and set the "Entry Level HF Morse Code Requirements" to 5 wpm, not 10-13 wpm.

My Amateur Radio License is an investment in my retirement. To bring pleasure not only now but also during those years when I can't leave the house as often I wish. HF is my mode of choice and always has been. Please, don't put that out of my reach!

The future of Amateur Radio operation in the HF bands is in your hands.

Don't let it slip through your fingers.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Till (N7OCD)